

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 28 and 29 due to informalities. Claims 28 and 29 have been amended to clarify the claims. The amendments are not narrowing.

Claim 12 was indicated as withdrawn for a non-elected species. Claim 12 is for the elected species as demonstrated by the dependence on claim 8. Claim 12 should not be withdrawn. If the Examiner agrees, the Examiner is requested to enter an Examiner's amendment changing the dependency to be from claim 1 due to the amendment to claim 1 and cancellation of claim 8.

Claims 25 and 26 were indicated as withdrawn for a non-elected species. As shown at paragraph 66 of the present application, claims 25 and 26 may be used for the elected species as well. Accordingly, claims 25 and 26 should be allowed.

Other claims withdrawn as to a non-elected species have been cancelled.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 13, 24, and 33 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Scip et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,380). Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 23, 24 and 33 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behren et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0102703). Claims 8-11 and 27 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and objections to the claims, including independent claims 1 and 14.

Independent claim 1 is amended above to include the limitations of allowable claim 8. Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 9-13, 23-24, and 33 are allowable.

Claims 27-29 have been amended into independent form with all of the limitations of claim 1 prior to amendment above. Claim 27 was indicated as allowable. The Examiner only objected to claims 28 and 29. The claims have been clarified, so are allowable.

Independent claim 14 was rejected, in part, by reliance on Behren et al.

The present application was filed before any publication or issuance of Behren et al. Behren et al. is a 102(e) reference used for a 103(a) rejection. Behren et al. is assigned to Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. The present application and Behren et al. were at the time of invention of the present application, owned by or subject to an obligation to assign to Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. Pursuant to 103(c)(1), claim 14 is allowable.

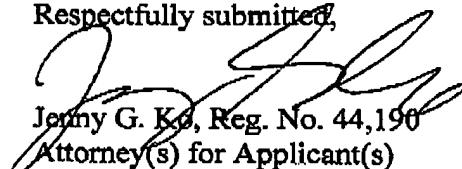
CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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Respectfully submitted,



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